



## News Release

**United States Navy**

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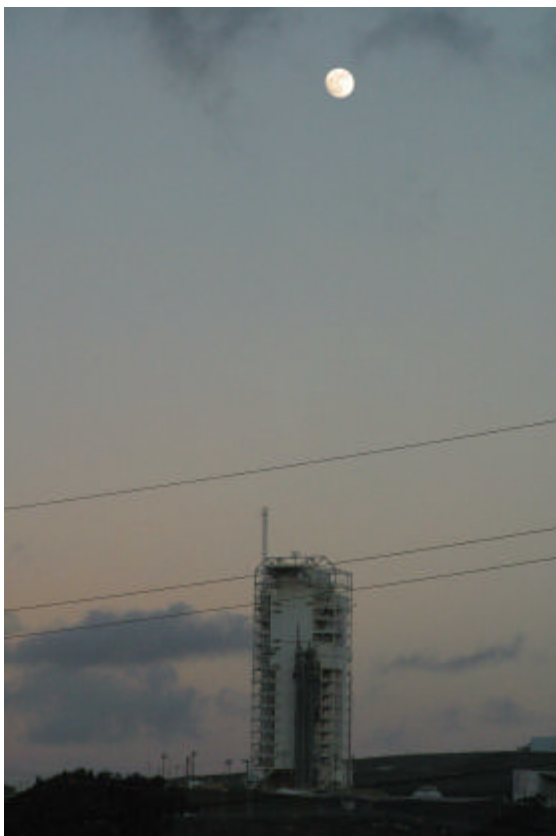
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2:30 a.m. Pacific Time

## Coriolis Weather Satellite launch scrubbed Rescheduled for early January



The Moon rises over Vandenberg's Titan II mobile service tower on Space Launch Complex 4 West Tuesday afternoon about 5:30 p.m. U.S. Navy photo by Richard Williamson, SPAWAR Public Affairs.

**VANDENBERG AFB, Calif.** – The Coriolis mission scheduled for launch here today aboard a Titan II space launch vehicle has been scrubbed because of a concern that developed with the spacecraft.

The launch will be rescheduled – with early January being the soonest anticipated date.

The launch team was also concerned about high winds aloft, potential for lightning, and thick cumulus clouds that violated flight constraints. However, controllers discovered a problem with the spacecraft when they came on console at Midnight Pacific Time.

Additional information should be available later today from the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center Public Affairs Office at Los Angeles Air Force Base.

When launched, the Air Force Coriolis mission will fly the Navy Windsat microwave polarimetric radiometer and Air Force Solar Mass Ejection Imager in a low Earth, sun synchronous orbit. The Windsat radiometer will provide important meteorological information on wind speed and direction at or near the surface of the ocean and the Solar Mass Ejection Imager will provide valuable early warning of coronal mass ejections that affect communications and power distribution systems here on earth.

The Coriolis mission is being assembled and launched by the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center's Detachment 12 Space Test Program Office at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico using a refurbished Lockheed Martin Titan II booster and a Spectrum Astro

spacecraft bus. Spectrum Astro is integrating the spacecraft bus and payloads with the Titan II for launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System program office is participating in the Coriolis flight and will use the Windsat information in reducing risk for the Conical Microwave Imager Sounder.

(more)

**For More Information:**

Vandenberg AFB Public Affairs Office operates a launch update line at 805-606-1857. This service will have the latest launch information. The base also maintains a web site providing launch information at:

<http://mocc.vandenberg.af.mil/launchsched.asp>

A photo of the Titan II Space Launch Complex and other images are available on the SPAWAR home page at <http://www.spawar.navy.mil>

The Vandenberg Air Force Base 30<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron posts weather information and launch weather forecasts to their web page at

[http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather\\_index.html](http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather_index.html)

There was a webcast scheduled for this launch. It is not known if that will be available on the new launch date. The URL for the webcast was: <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/payload/missions/coriolis/>

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